

Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-18*

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 028924

R 141425Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1657

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS DURBAN 0047

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: DURBAN AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

1. 2,000 AFRICAN WORKERS AT DURBAN'S ONLY AUTO ASSEMBLY PLANT, MOTOR ASSEMBLIES LTD., WENT ON STRIKE FEBRUARY 13 FOR HIGHER PAY. STRIKE NOW IN SECOND DAY, WITH WORKERS DEMANDING R1 PER HOUR INCREASE. PRESENT AVERAGE WAGE R0.43 PER HOUR. MOTOR ASSEMBLIES ASSEMBLES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET RAMBLER HORNET AS WELL AS TOYOTAS AND MAZDAS, WITH DAILY PRODUCTION NEAR 300. COMPANY HAS AGREED NEGOTIATE WAGE INCREASES WITH WORKERS' LIAISON COMMITTEE AND IS CONTINUING PROVIDE WORKERS WITH FREE TRANSPORT AND SUBSIDIZED MEALS. THIS FIRST DURBAN STRIKE SINCE RECENT TRADE UNIONIST BANNINGS AND FIRST STRIKE IN IMPORTANT SOUTH AFRICAN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY.

2. CONCURRENTLY, DURBAN CITY COUNCIL EXPECTED APPROVE SHORTLY RECOMMENDED TEN PER CENT WAGE INCREASE FOR 16,000 NON-WHITE
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MUNICIPAL WORKERS, WITH REGULAR WAGE REVIEW EVERY SIX MONTHS LINKING WAGE RWTES TO LOCAL COST OF LIVING INDEX. ALTHOUGH

NO PRESENT STRIKE THREAT BY MUNICIPAL WORKERS, MOVE FOLLOWED
SHORT WALK-OUT BY CITY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. IT WILL BE
RECALLED STRIKING MUNICIPAL WORKERS PLAYED KEY ROLE IN MASSIVE
AFRICAN STRIKES JAN/FEB 1973.
HOLMES

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NNN

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